The first principle of the Sunnah is to adhere to what the Companions were upon

Mohammed Saeed Raslan

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أول أصول السنة التمسك بما كان عليه الصحابة

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Translator introduction

All praise is due to Allah; we praise Him and seek His forgiveness.

We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our souls and the wickedness of our deeds.

He, whom Allah guides, none can misguide him, and he whom He misguides, none can guide him.

I bear witness there is no deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah, alone, without partner.

His is the dominion and His is the praise.

He gives life and causes death, and He is over all things competent. Now then:

I have translated the book before you, entitled (**The first principle of the Sunnah is to adhere to what the Companions were upon**) by (**Mohammed Saeed Raslan**) because of the many benefits and advantages it contains for the Muslim.

This translation is my own effort. If I do well, it is from Allah and His guidance to me, and if I make a mistake, it is from myself and from Satan.

I ask Allah to make this work of mine purely for Him and to spread the word of truth throughout the entire earth and to teach Muslims who do not speak Arabic their religion that Allah has chosen for them.

The one in need of his Lord's forgiveness: **Omar bin Ahmed Tohamy**.

The first sermon

All praise is due to Allah. We praise Him, seek His aid, and ask for His forgiveness. We seek refuge in Allah from the evils of our own souls and the wickedness of our deeds. He whom Allah guides, none can misguide, and he whom Allah misguides, none can guide. I bear witness there is no deity worthy of worship in truth except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad is His servant and Messenger.

As for what follows:

The most truthful speech is the Book of Allah, and the best guidance is the guidance of Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace. The worst of matters are their innovations, and every innovated matter in religion is an innovation, and every innovation is misguidance, and every misguidance leads to the Fire.

As for what follows:

The matter of belief is the matter of life

Indeed, the matter of belief is a great matter, and the matter of religion is a great matter that mixes with flesh and blood, flowing in the veins wherever it wishes. It is the light of the eyes and the life of the hearts.

The matter of belief is a great matter, it is the matter of life, it is the connection and bond of life to life. So if belief and certainty are lost, what kind of life will there be?!

The matter of belief is a very great matter, and if it is complete, belief will shine with its light in the hearts. If belief shines with its light between the teeth and its light flows between the folds, then it will overflow with its light onto the tongue, onto the limbs, and onto the movement of life, as the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"A Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand the Muslims are safe."**[1]

Adherence to the principles of the Sunnah

Our predecessors, the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, and those who followed them in righteousness, were the most eager to follow the Sunnah and the furthest from innovation. They left out many exaggerated warnings about adhering to the Sunnah and warning against innovation.

[1] **Narrated by Al-Bukhari (10) and Muslim (40) on the authority of Abdullah bin Amr, may Allah be pleased with them both.**

Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said: **"We follow and do not initiate, and we follow and do not innovate. We will never go astray as long as we adhere to the Sunnah."**[2]

It was also narrated from him (may Allah be pleased with him): **"Follow and do not innovate, for you have been sufficed."**[3]

And from Abdullah ibn Abbas (may Allah be pleased with them both): **"Adhere to righteousness and follow the first command and do not innovate."**[4]

Umar ibn Abdul Aziz (may Allah have mercy on him) advised some of his workers, saying: **"I advise you to fear Allah and be moderate in your affairs, and to follow the Sunnah of His Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him), and to abandon the innovations introduced by those who came after him in what his Sunnah entailed. You must adhere to the Sunnah, for it will protect you, God willing."**[5]

The term "Sunnah" is used in contrast to innovation and in contrast to obligatory duties.

What is meant by "Sunnah" is belief and methodology, which is what is meant here.

The term "Sunnah" here means the correct, sound belief that is in accordance with the principles of religion and belief of the righteous predecessors of this Ummah.[6]

Adherence to the path of the companions of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace

Servants of Allah! The fundamentals of our Sunnah are: adhering to the practices of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah, may Allah bless him and grant him peace, and following their example.

Allah Almighty says:

﴿وَمَن يُشَاقِقِ الرَّسُولَ مِن بَعْدِ مَا تَبَيَّنَ لَهُ الْهُدَىٰ وَيَتَّبِعْ غَيْرَ سَبِيلِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ نُوَلِّهِ مَا تَوَلَّىٰ وَنُصْلِهِ جَهَنَّمَ ۖ وَسَاءَتْ مَصِيرًا﴾

“And whoever opposes the Messenger after guidance has become clear to him and follows other than the way of the believers - We will give him what he has taken and drive him into Hell, and evil it is as a destination.” [An-Nisa: 115]

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[2] Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi (2641) and authenticated by Al-Albani in Sahih Al-Jami' (5343)
[3] It was included by Al-Lalaka'i in “Explanation of the Principles of Belief” (104).
[4] Narrated by Ibn Battah in “Al-Ibanah” (160,161)
[5] Narrated by Abu Dawood and authenticated by Al-Albani in Sahih Sunan Abi Dawood (4612)
[6] What was mentioned above is summarized from the book “Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad” (pp. 105-106)

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, **"Whoever among you lives after me will see much disagreement, so adhere to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs. Cling to them firmly."**[7] Narrated by al-Tirmidhi and authenticated by al-Albani.

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said, describing the saved sect, **"It is what I and my Companions are upon today."**[8] Narrated by al-Tirmidhi, and authenticated by al-Albani.

Ibn Mas'ud (may Allah be pleased with him) said, **"Whoever among you seeks an example, let him follow the example of the Companions of Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), for they are the most pious of this nation in heart, the most profound in knowledge, the least pretentious, the most upright in guidance, and the best in condition. They are a people whom Allah chose to be the companions of His Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). So recognize their virtue and follow their footsteps, for they were upon the straight path."**[9]

The Companions (may Allah be pleased with them) should be followed, and their Sunnah and path should not be abandoned. Whoever abandons them and deviates from them has deviated, and whoever deviates from them will be led into the Fire.

It is part of the Muslim faith and path, following the path of the Prophet, to adhere to the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and to follow their example, for they are all just and because Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, chose them to be the companions of our Prophet and their Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). They were the purest of people in heart, the greatest in faith, and the most steadfast in heart and footing on the straight path. They struggled for the sake of Allah, the Lord of the Worlds, with their souls and wealth, along with their truthfulness, sincerity, and foremost among them. Above all, they witnessed with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) what we have not witnessed. They studied the events of the revelation and its causes, learned the reasons for its revelation, and were inspired by the company of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in all his circumstances: in his travels and his presence, in his settlements and his travels, in his peace and his struggle, in his sorrow and joy, in his laughter and his tears. They conveyed this to us as if we were seeing it. May Allah, the Blessed and Exalted, be pleased with them all[10]

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[7] Narrated by Al-Tirmidhi (2676) and authenticated by Al-Albani in Al-Arwa' (2455)

[8] It was narrated by Al-Tirmidhi (2641) and authenticated by Al-Albani on the authority of others in the Eid Prayer (p. 46).

[9] It was narrated by Ibn Abd al-Barr (2/947) (1810) in Jami' Bayan al-Ilm.

[10] What was mentioned above is an abridged version of the book "Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad" (pp. 111-123).

Mentioning the virtues of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, and loving them

Servants of Allah! It is Sunnah to mention the virtues of all the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and to refrain from mentioning their faults and the disputes that arose among them.

Whoever insults the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) or any one of them is an innovator from whom Allah will not accept any compensation or recompense.

Indeed, loving them is a Sunnah (belief), supplicating for them is a means of drawing closer to Allah, following their example, and adopting their footsteps is a virtue.

We, servants of Allah, should recognize the virtues of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him)[11].

The righteousness of the companions

O Muslims! All the Companions are righteous, and the righteousness of the Companions is a matter of faith or something that is known of the religion by necessity.

Allah Almighty says:

﴿۞ لَّقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ فَأَنزَلَ السَّكِينَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ وَأَثَابَهُمْ فَتْحًا قَرِيبًا﴾

“Certainly was Allah pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you, [O Muhammad], under the tree, and He knew what was in their hearts, so He sent down tranquillity upon them and rewarded them with an imminent conquest” [Al-Fath: 18]

This verse clearly indicates Allah's praise of the Companions and their righteousness, may Allah be pleased with them, and the pleasure of Allah, Lord of the Worlds, which He established for them and His knowledge of what is in their hearts.

Allah Almighty says:

﴿وَالسَّابِقُونَ الْأَوَّلُونَ مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ وَالَّذِينَ اتَّبَعُوهُم بِإِحْسَانٍ رَّضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنْهُمْ وَرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَأَعَدَّ لَهُمْ جَنَّاتٍ تَجْرِي تَحْتَهَا الْأَنْهَارُ خَالِدِينَ فِيهَا أَبَدًا ۚ ذَٰلِكَ الْفَوْزُ الْعَظِيمُ﴾

"And the first forerunners [in the faith] among the Muhajireen and the Ansar and those who followed them with good conduct - Allah is pleased with them and they are pleased with Him,

[11] What was mentioned above is an abbreviation from the book “Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad” (pp. 125-128).

and He has prepared for them gardens beneath which rivers flow, wherein they will abide forever. That is the great attainment." [At-Tawbah: 100]

Sheikh Al-Islam[12] (may Allah have mercy on him) said: "He was pleased with those who came before without stipulating goodness, and He was not pleased with those who followed them unless they followed them in goodness."

Following the Companions in goodness includes being pleased with them and seeking forgiveness for them.

Among the verses that indicate the belief of the Ahl al-Sunna and the Jama'ah regarding the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) is the Almighty's statement:

﴿لَا يَسْتَوِي مِنكُم مَّنْ أَنفَقَ مِن قَبْلِ الْفَتْحِ وَقَاتَلَ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ أَعْظَمُ دَرَجَةً مِّنَ الَّذِينَ أَنفَقُوا مِن بَعْدُ وَقَاتَلُوا ۚ وَكُلًّا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحُسْنَىٰ ۚ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ﴾

“Not equal among you are those who spent before the conquest [of Makkah] and fought [and those who did so after it]. Those are greater in degree than they who spent afterwards and fought. But to all Allah has promised the best [reward]. And Allah, with what you do, is Acquainted.” [Al-Hadid: 10]

"Al-Husna = best reward" means Paradise. This was stated by Mujahid and Qatadah.[13]

Ibn Hazm [14] definitively argued from this verse that all Companions are among the people of Paradise, based on the Almighty's statement:

﴿وَكُلًّا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ الْحُسْنَىٰ ۚ﴾

“And to both Allah has promised the best [reward].”[An-Nisa: 95]

The Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"Do not revile my Companions, for if one of you were to spend the equivalent of Mount Uhud in gold, he would not attain the Mudd of one of them, nor even its half."**[15] Agreed upon.

"Al-Mudd" means what a man takes with both hands, and half of it means half of it.

"Imran ibn al-Husayn (may Allah be pleased with him) said: The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"The best of my nation are my generation, then those who come after them, then those who come after them."**

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[12] It was narrated by al-tabari in his Tafsir (23/177)
[13] Al-Sarim Al-Masloul (1/574)
[14] Rulings (5/664)
[15] Narrated by Al-Bukhari (3673) and Muslim (2541)

Imran said: **"I do not know whether he mentioned two or three generations after his generation."**[16] Agreed upon.

On the authority of Abu Musa al-Ash'ari (may Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"The stars are a source of security for the heavens. When the stars are gone, the people of the heavens will receive what they were promised. I am a source of security for my companions. When I am gone, my companions will receive what they were promised. My companions are a source of security for my ummah. When my companions are gone, my ummah will receive what they were promised."**[17] Narrated by Muslim.

And on the authority of Umar ibn al-Khattab (may Allah be pleased with him), the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"Honor my companions, for they are the best among you."**[18] Narrated by Ahmad and authenticated by al-Albani.

Allah, Lord of the Worlds, has commanded us to seek forgiveness for them, and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) has commanded us to honor them. Whoever speaks ill of them or slanders them is not from the people of the Sunnah.

Knowing the value of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, is the way to adhere to their approach.

Servants of Allah! Adhering to the path of the Companions and following their example is only possible if we recognize their worth and place them in the status that Allah, Lord of the Worlds, has granted them in the religion, and that He granted them to our Prophet Muhammad, may Allah bless him and grant him peace.

May Allah bless our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and all his Companions.

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[16] **Narrated by Al-Bukhari (2651) and Muslim (2535)**
[17] **Narrated by Muslim (2531)**
[18] **Narrated by Ahmad (177) and Ibn Majah (2363) and authenticated by Al-Albani in Sahihah (1116)**

The second sermon

Praise be to Allah alone, and peace and blessings be upon the one after whom there is no prophet.

As for what follows:

An-Nawawi[19] (may Allah have mercy on him) said, "The virtue of companionship, even for a moment, cannot be compared to any action, nor can its degree be attained by anything. Virtues cannot be measured by analogy. That is the bounty of Allah, which He bestows upon whom He wills."

And Allah, Lord of the Worlds, in addition to the outward attestation of the companions of His trustworthy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him), He also attestified them with an inward, internal attestation:

﴿فَعَلِمَ مَا فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ﴾

“And He knew what was in their hearts” [Al-Fath 18]

﴿لَّقَد تَّابَ اللَّهُ عَلَى النَّبِيِّ وَالْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنصَارِ﴾

“Allah has already forgiven the Prophet and the Muhajireen and the Ansar” [At-Tawbah: 117]

And Allah mentioned His pleasure with them:

﴿لَّقَدْ رَضِيَ اللَّهُ عَنِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِذْ يُبَايِعُونَكَ تَحْتَ الشَّجَرَةِ﴾

“Certainly was Allah pleased with the believers when they pledged allegiance to you, [O Muhammad], under the tree” [Al-Fath 18]

All of this was unique to them, so how can those who come after them have such attestation![20]

Adherence to the path of the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them, is the path to Paradise

Our path and approach is to adhere to the path of the Companions of our Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and follow their example.

There is no path to Paradise except this path. It is the only path to Paradise, as the Messenger (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"So adhere to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs who came after me."**[21][22]

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[19] **Explanation of Muslim (16/93)**
[20] **What was mentioned above is summarized from the book “Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad” (p. 154-155)**
[21] **It was previously mentioned**

Imam Ahmad (may Allah have mercy on him) said: "The foundations of the Sunnah for us are to adhere to the path of the Companions of the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) and follow their example." This is because when the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was asked about the sect which achieves salvation, he said: **"Whoever follows the same path as I and my Companions do today."**[23]

And he (peace and blessings be upon him) said: **"So adhere to my Sunnah and the Sunnah of the Rightly-Guided Caliphs who came after me."** [24][25]

We ask Allah, Lord of the Worlds, to be pleased with all the Companions of our Trustworthy Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) and to gather us with them and the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) in Paradise.

Indeed, the Almighty is capable of all things. Our final supplication is: Praise be to Allah, Lord of the Worlds.

And may peace and blessings be upon our Prophet Muhammad and upon all his family and Companions.[26]

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[22] What was mentioned above is summarized from the book "Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad" p. 149
[23] It was previously mentioned
[24] It was previously mentioned
[25] What was mentioned above is summarized from the book "Explanation of the Principles of the Sunnah by Imam Ahmad" p. 149
[26] What was mentioned above from (Explanation of the Fundamentals of the Sunnah by Imam Al-Hamidi, may Allah have mercy on him) (Eighth Lecture: The Sunni Belief in the Companions, may Allah be pleased with them) Tuesday, Rabi` Al-Awwal 10, 1434 AH | January 22, 2013 AD